



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

373D  
4-22  
#9

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart et al.  
Serial No.: 09/875,588  
Filing Date: 06/06/2001  
For: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM  
AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: Julian W. Woo  
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 3

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED  
WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL,  
POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON:

April 2, 2003

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

James A. Sheridan

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 04/02/03  
(SIGNATURE)

April 2, 2003

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicants hereby petition for a three (3) month extension  
of time to respond to the outstanding OFFICIAL ACTION mailed  
October 2, 2002 with respect to the above-identified patent  
application, thereby extending the time for response from  
January 2, 2003 to April 2, 2003.

A check in the amount of \$930.00 is enclosed to cover the  
cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated  
on the basis of a Large Entity status.

INNO-15 CON 3

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

*James A. Sheridan 04/02/03*

James A. Sheridan

Registration No. 43,114

Pandiscio & Pandiscio

470 Totten Pond Road

Waltham, MA 02451-1914

Tel. No. (781) 290-0060

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